



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

March 12, 2008

DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hochman called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Hochman, Michael Jordan, Lee Moldaver, Roger Schlueter, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: George Weber

Liaison members present: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: County Project Clean Water Liaison Rob Almy, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Supervisor George Johnson, Water Resources Specialist Autumn Malanca, Creeks Program Assistant Liz Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee members Jordan/Moldaver to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 13, 2008.

Committee Discussion:

Mr. Moldaver noted that the minutes state he left the meeting following Item 7b, when in fact he left following Item 7c.

Revised Motion:

Committee members Jordan/Moldaver to accept the minutes with Mr. Moldaver's revision.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Hochman requested that Item 9b be moved to immediately follow Item 8.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Moldaver noted recent news articles regarding pharmaceutical agents in public water supplies, and suggested inviting Dr. Edo McGowan, a local expert on the issue, to speak to the Committee.

Ms. Longstreet announced that the Committee and the public are invited to participate in a Community Planting Day at the Douglas Family Preserve on Saturday, March 15 from 9am to noon.

Mr. Wilson arrived at 5:34pm.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Benson reported that the Watershed Subcommittee met on Thursday, February 21 to discuss the Technical Assistance Program. Staff will prepare and present a report to the Committee at a future meeting.

Mr. Benson also reported that the Budget Subcommittee met on Monday, March 10 to discuss proposed mid-cycle adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2009 budget. Staff will prepare and present a report to the Committee at a future meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

BUSINESS ITEMS

9b. Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration project.

Documents:

Staff Report – March 2008

Power Point Presentation – March 2008

Speakers:

George Johnson, Creeks Supervisor

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the composition of the trail to the Douglas Family Preserve.

Mr. Johnson reported that the trail is compacted decomposed granite with a stabilizer, and that while a small amount of erosion took place during recent rains, it is not a concern at this time.

Mr. Jordan encouraged Staff to continue to leverage the success of the project, to continue adding signage and information at the site, and to keep up on maintenance. Mr. Jordan also encouraged Ms. Longstreet to work with the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee to continue the path of decomposed granite all the way to the bluff.

Committee members asked the status of the new footpath from Elings Park to the intersection of Cliff Drive and Las Positas.

Ms. Falcone reported the trail is a bike trail connected to Elings Park, and discouraged walking on the trail.

Public Comment:

Mr. John Moore requested clarification of the term “deposition” as used in Mr. Johnson’s presentation.

Mr. Johnson reported that deposition is when sediment that has eroded from one site is naturally deposited at another site.

9a. Low Impact Development

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a report regarding Low Impact Development (LID) goals and techniques.

Documents:

Staff Report – March 2008

Power Point Presentation – March 2008

Handout – LID Links/Resources – March 2008

Speakers:

Autumn Malanca, Water Resources Specialist

Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding Ms. Malanca’s opinion of LID; further explanation of disconnecting impervious surfaces; whether rain barrel water is potable; and, the difference between detention and retention basins.

Ms. Malanca reported that she was particularly impressed by high removal rates of metals found in LID projects, and the success of green roofs in other areas; that disconnecting impervious surfaces entails breaking up continuous hardscapes to allow more pervious surfaces to reduce runoff; that rain barrel water can be made potable, but must meet County health requirements; and, that detention basins are designed to hold water for a short time, and retention basins to hold water for a longer time.

Mr. Wilson noted that “detention” can be thought of on a scale of hours, and “retention” on a scale of days.

Mr. Moldaver left at 6:35pm.

Public Comment:

Ms. Kira Redmond of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper spoke in favor of LID and urged the City to advance and implement LID demonstration projects and education, noting the benefit to water quality and supply, riparian habitat, and the economy.

Committee Discussion:

Committee members suggested Staff recognize and educate the public regarding the positive and negative aspects of LID and be careful of liability and community responsibility in promoting LID; and, that Staff lead the way in encouraging LID at a residential level and explore the possibility of being involved financially.

Mr. Benson reported that the Creeks Division has LID projects in the short and long term underway, including the recently completed Soledad Street bioswale and the Santa Barbara Golf Club Storm Water Management Project. The Creeks Division will be training City staff on the upcoming Technical Guidance Manual, which will provide information for large and small LID projects. The Creeks Division is also exploring options for LID demonstration projects on City property in Fiscal Year 2009.

Mr. Hochman requested information regarding LID be added to the Creeks Division website, www.sbcreeks.com.

Committee members asked whether community members and developers are already installing LID projects.

Ms. Falcone reported that many developments are incorporating bioswales and runoff detention principles into their designs, but that more education will be beneficial.

Mr. Benson reported that staff has given presentations to the Historic Landmarks Commission and the Architectural Board of Review as well as architects, contractors, and building associations, and that they are interested and supportive.

Ms. Longstreet noted that while LID is important in new projects, incorporating LID into existing projects will be key.

Committee members asked whether a system is in place to measure the success of LID projects; whether disposal of plants that absorb metals in

LID projects is of concern; and, whether GIS can be used to track the amount of impervious surfaces in Santa Barbara.

Mr. Benson reported that while directly measuring the success of LID projects will be challenging, reducing runoff will have a corresponding reduction in pollutants in the creeks; that metals in planter boxes are much easier to manage than metals ending up in the creeks and ocean; that Staff can explore the City's GIS system's potential to track impervious surfaces; and, that the Ocean Protection Council and the State Water Board both have grant funding available for LID-related projects.

Mr. Wilson noted that LID will be most effective on a parcel by parcel basis, and urged the Creeks Division to further educate the Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmarks Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council on the benefits of LID.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Wilson/Schlueter to adjourn.

Chair Hochman adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager